RSAC 2025 Conference

Many Voices.
One Community.

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One Community, One Voice
Bridging the Cyber Poverty Gap

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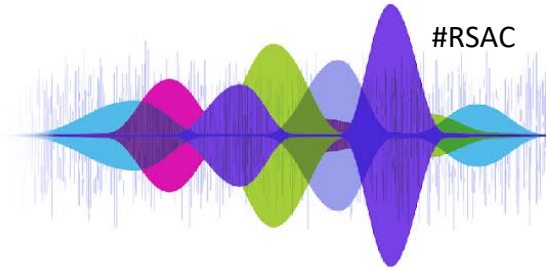

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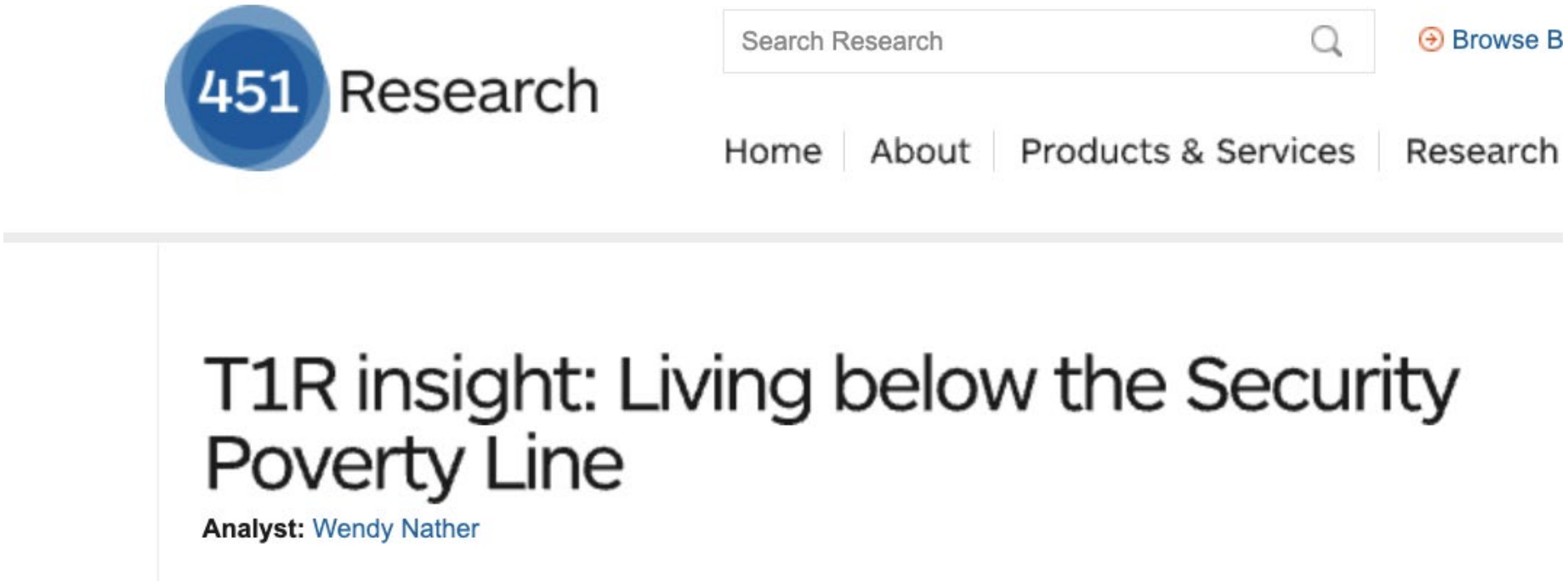
Defining the Security Poverty Line

Originally conceived by Wendy Nather in 2011*



* https://web.archive.org/web/20140203193523/https:/451research.com/t1r-insight-living-below-the-security-poverty-line

Factors Affecting Security Poverty

- **Budget** What can the organization actually afford?
- **Expertise** Can the organization get skilled, experienced staff to manage their own risk?
- **Capability** What constraints in the environment interfere with security implementation and operations?
- **Influence** Can the organization influence its suppliers, the regulatory environment, and customers?

A Data-Driven Definition?

Children of the Poor

There is a growing awareness that as the Nation grows richer the dollar gap between average income and the income of our poorest citizens widens. Because prices and standards tend to move with prevailing income, families remaining at the bottom of the heap will be outbid and outspent. When such poverty befalls families rearing children—the citizens of the future—the social consequences reach far beyond the present deprivation. By one crude index of poverty it can be shown that every fourth or fifth family with children under age 18 may have to choose between an adequate diet at minimum cost and some other necessity—they cannot afford both. All told, some 17–23 million youngsters, or from a fourth to a third of all our children, are growing up in the gray shadow of poverty.

Orshansky, Mollie. "Children of the Poor." *Soc. Sec. Bull.* 26 (1963): 3.

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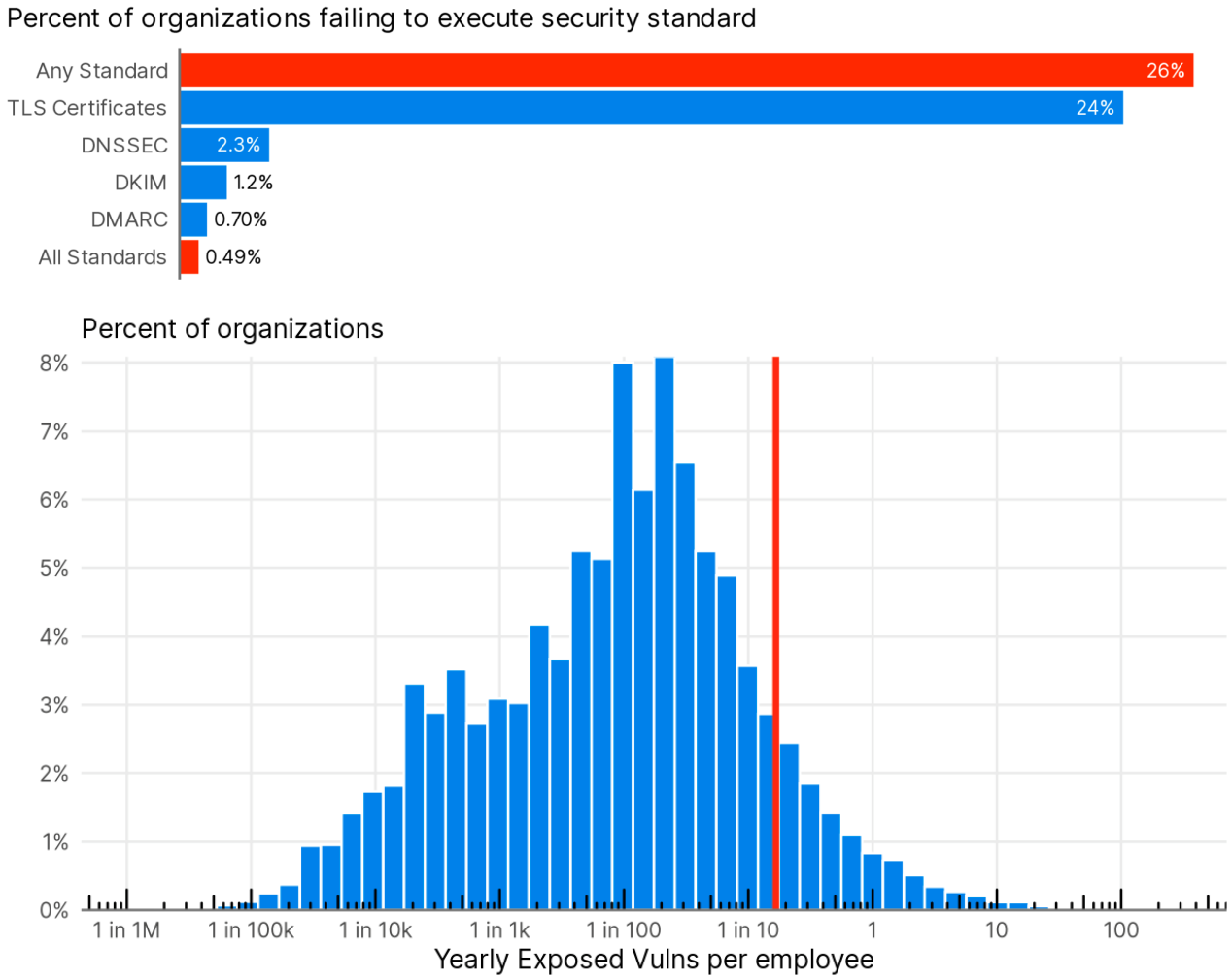

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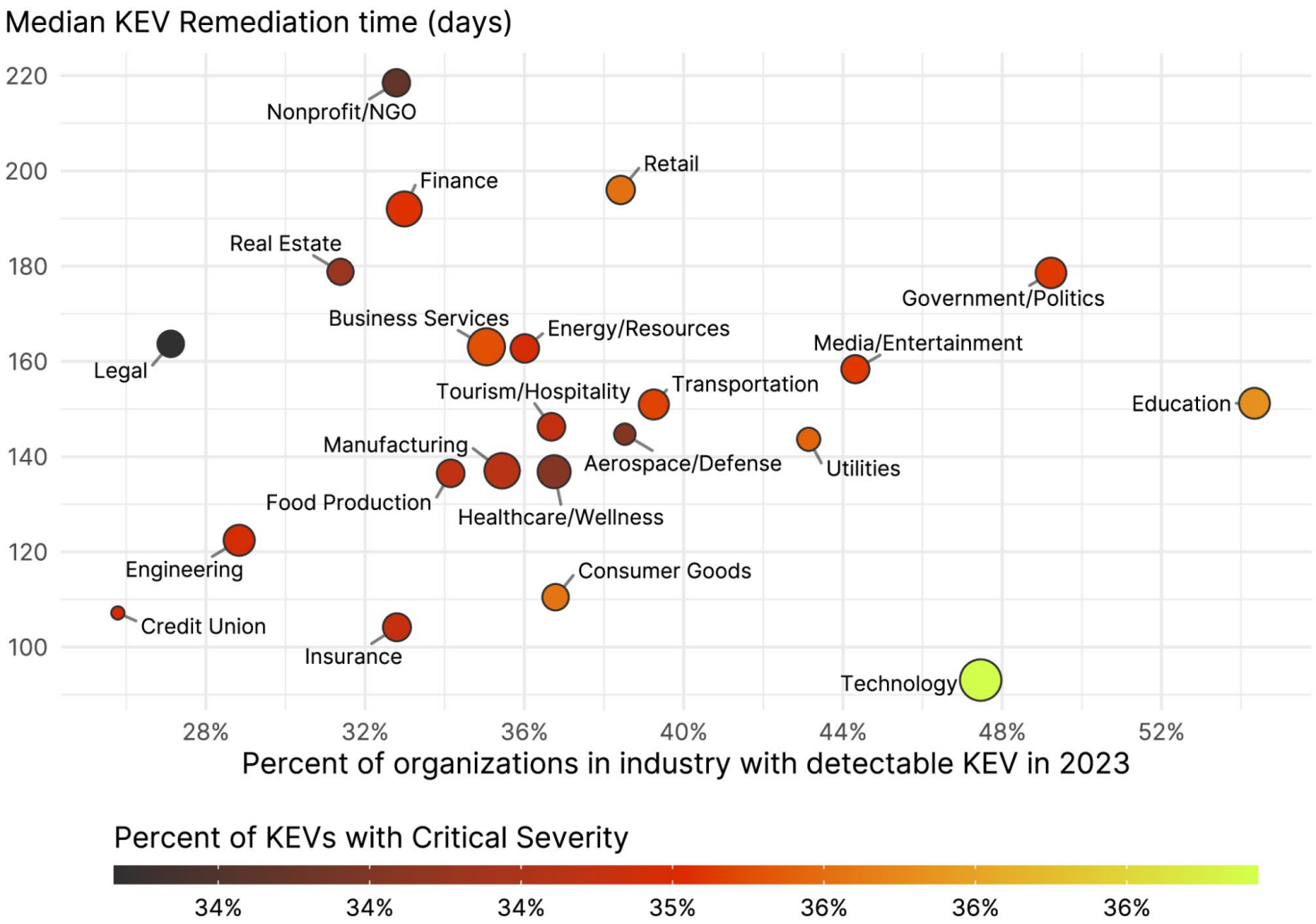
Data doesn’t tell the whole story.

Where is the security poverty line?

Industries that Struggle



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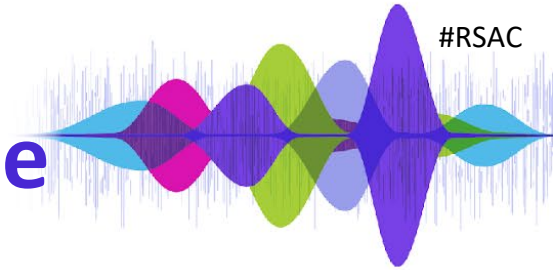
Where else can we look for the security poverty line?

How can we address the security poverty line?

What can you do about the security poverty line



- **This week**
  - Everyone! Think about your resources and how they could best be deployed to reduce risk.
  - Examine Resources
    - Consortium of Cyber Clinics, lead by the Berkeley Center for Long Term Cybersecurity
    - Craig Newmark Philanthropies
    - CISA Free resources
- **In the next 3 months**
  - Engage with your elected officials about cyber policy; you don't have to be invited
  - Expand the discussion beyond the business case to the community
- **Within 6 months**
  - Understand that a risk to any organization is a risk to us all. Understand who might be struggling in your community and offer to help

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Thank you.